Planchonella House

Planchonella House was designed with a simple idea in mind- to create a series of joyful spaces to inspire and enrich daily life.

Set in tropical north Queensland, the house embraces the heritage rainforest surrounds and utilises experimental passive design methods. The simplistic approach and use of Lo-Fi technologies results in a raw and honest dwelling. Contours of the site ridgeline have formed basis for the playful lines utilised in concrete profiles. Visual amenity from surrounding lower areas has been maintained with this design, in that rather than creating a dominant form on the landscape, it tucks back in at the critical highest most revealing point. The wings created each side of the ridge float into the surrounding rainforest and become part of the tree canopy. The large flat roof with generous overhang acts as a rainforest canopy above, minimal walls and columns in between allow for un-obstructed views and moments to be shared with the landscape. This omission of boundaries between inside and outside gives an openness and quality of space that is surreal, living completely within and engulfed by the beautiful landscape. The resolution of plan follows a purely functional approach to use of space, privacy, visual connection and passive design principles. The plan wraps around the courtyard space, which is considered the second hearth (after the kitchen) or perhaps lungs to the entire dwelling. The courtyard contributes much to the house and its occupants, it is an oasis that provides sun, light, ventilation, happiness, activity, visual stimulation, and entertainment. It also provides connection to the surrounding rainforest, connection from one part of the house to another, and acts as the focal node to the promenade experience of moving through the house.

Site: 4818m2   House Area: 280m2   Bedrooms: 3   Bathrooms: 2

Australian Institute of Architects Awards (2015):
National - Winner - Robin Boyd Award for Residential Architecture (Houses New)
Queensland State- Winner - Robin Dods Award for Residential Architecture (Houses New)
FNQ Regionals - House of the Year & Regional Project of the Year

Houses Awards (2015):
Winner- Australian House of the Year
Winner- New House over 200m2